

# Data dissemination for scientific purposes

**Study visit EU Twinning Project  
with Bosnia-Herzegovina**

**Wiesbaden, 12th of March 2013  
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# Research Data Centres (RDC)

- Interface organisations between data producers and scientific research
- Facilitation of access to microdata and metadata for scientific community
- Consulting and service for the use of official microdata



# Research Data Centers in Germany



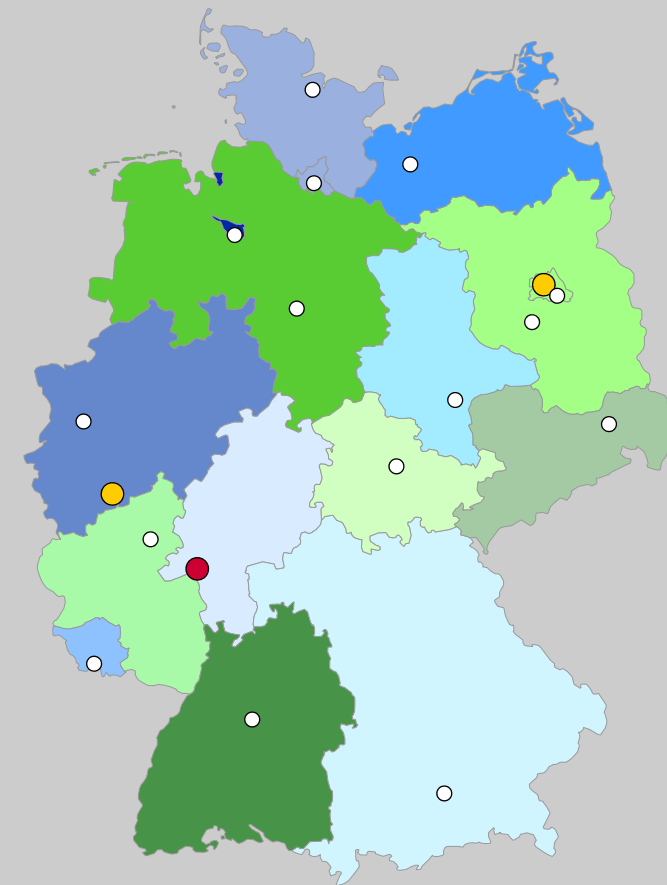
- RDC of the Federal Statistical Office (FDZ-Bund, 2001)
- RDC of the statistical offices of the Länder (FDZ-Länder, 2002)
- RDC of the Federal Employment Agency (BA) at the Institute for Employment Research (FDZ-IAB, 2004)
- RDC of the German Federal Pension Insurance (FDZ-RV, 2004)
- and later on many more  
currently 25 accredited by the German Data Forum:  
<http://www.ratswd.de/en/data-infrastructure/rdc>

Funded by:



# RDC of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder

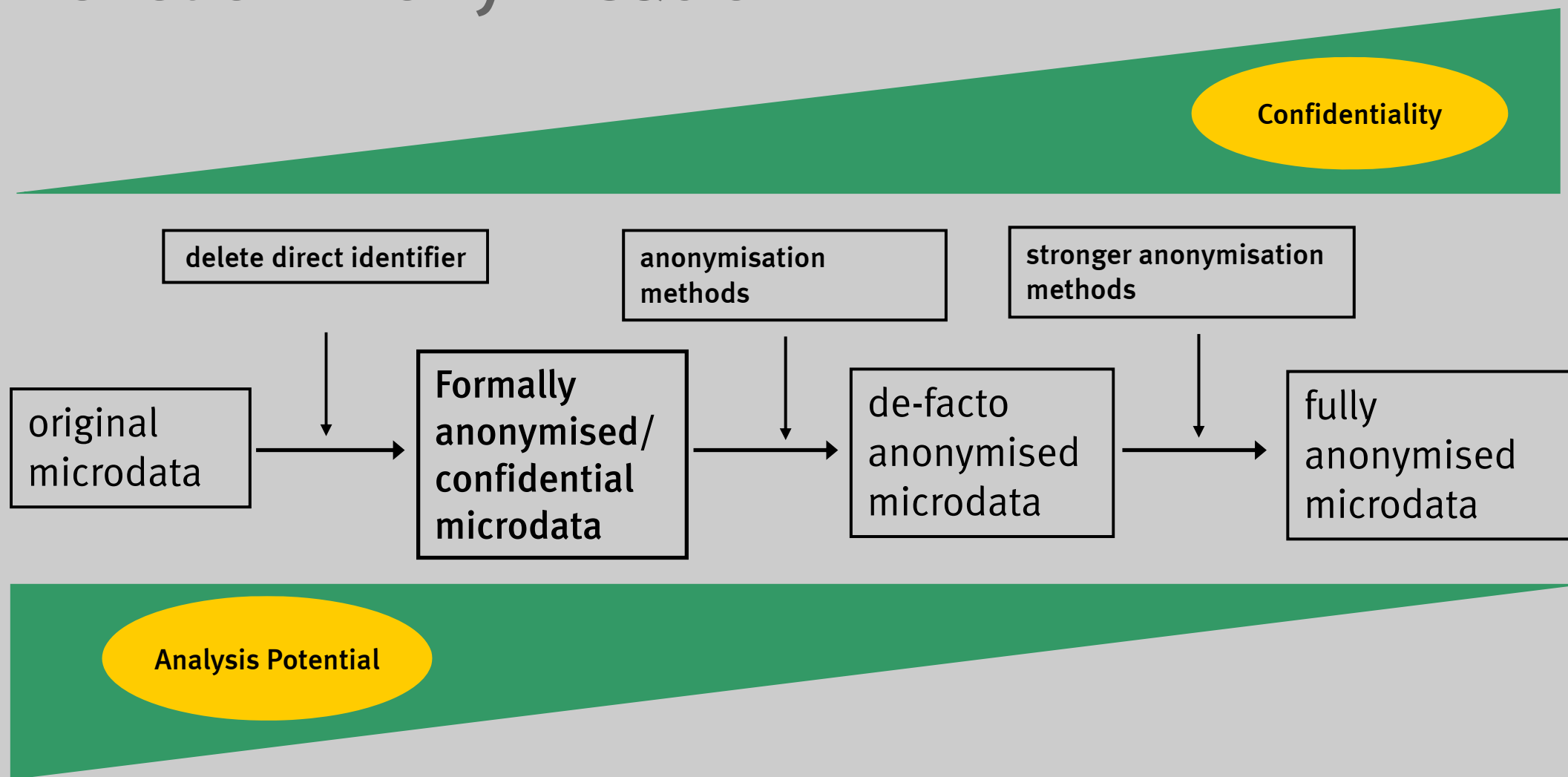
- RDC of the Federal Statistical Office: Wiesbaden, Berlin, Bonn
- Local RDCs of the statistical offices of the Länder : Düsseldorf, Bad Ems, Berlin/Potsdam, Bremen, Erfurt, Halle, Hamburg, Hannover, Kamenz/Dresden, Kiel, München, Saarbrücken, Schwerin, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden

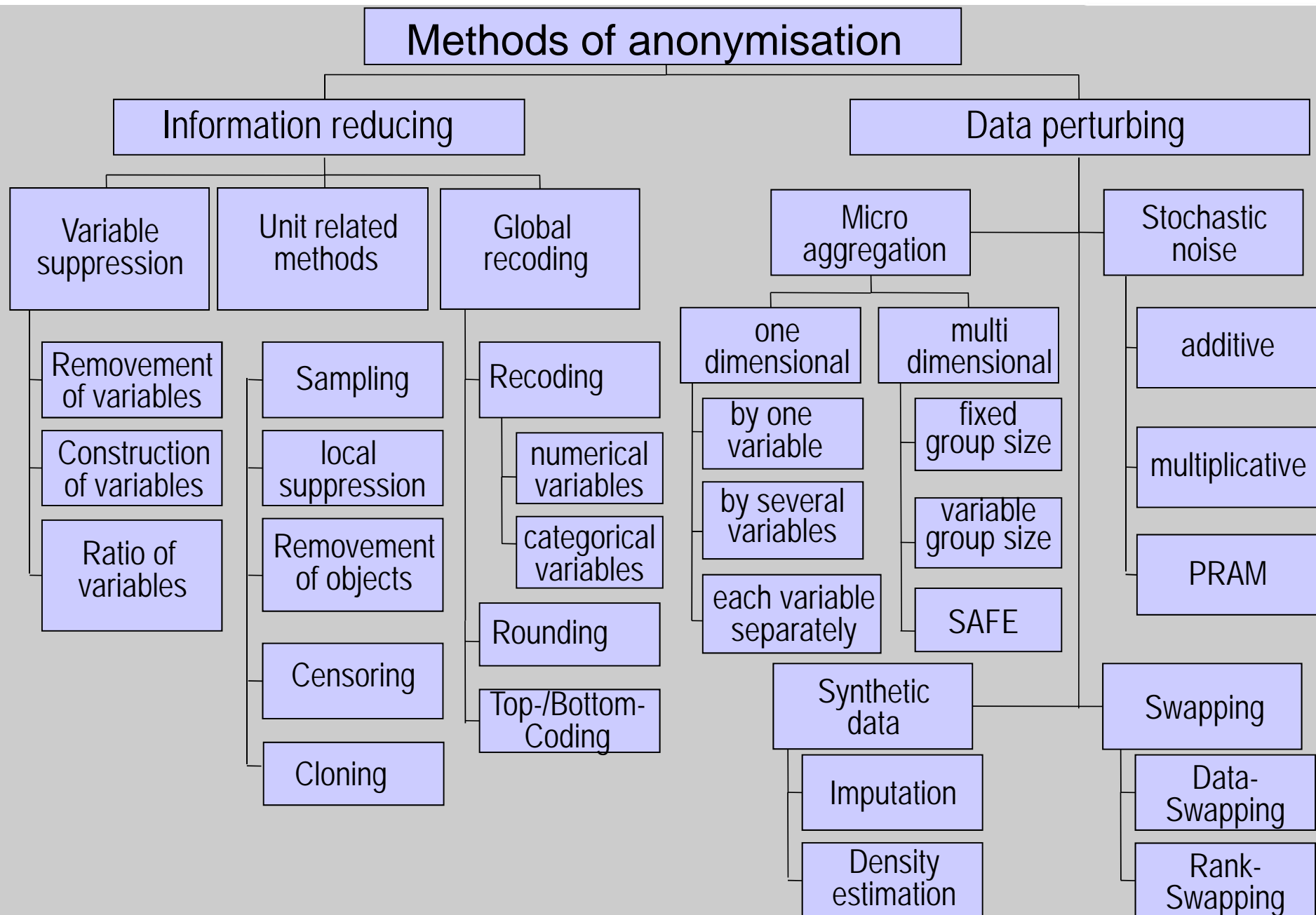


# Application for microdata access - Workflow

- **Standardised application form for microdata access**
- **Description of the research proposal**
- **Send by applicants to one of the two central RDC offices**
- **Prove of access authority**
- **Agreement of access by the statistic department and by the Länder**
- **Contract between research entity /researchers and RDC**
- **Microdata access via the responsible RDC**

# Level of Anonymisation





# Microdata Access

Level of anonymisation	Information content	Way of access	
not anonymised	- full information content	no access	
formally anonymised	no direct identifiers such as name and address - complete analysis content	ON-SITE	Remote execution
de-facto anonymised	information reduced until effort of de-anonymisation greater than benefit - medium analysis content		Guest researcher workplace
		OFF-SITE	Scientific Use Files
absolutely anonymised	information reduced until it can no longer be ascribed to respondents as far as it is possible to judge - low analysis content		Public Use Files CAMPUS Files



# ON-SITE: Remote execution

- formally anonymised microdata
- users have no direct access to the microdata
- users receive structural data records (dummy files) to prepare their analyses programs
- users send their analyses programs to the RDC
- RDC runs the analyses, checks the output and send the anonymised results to the user
- available for all users

# ON-SITE: Guest researcher workplace

- de-facto anonymised microdata
- users come to the secure environment of the RDC
- analyses PC no internet connection, separate PC workplace with an internet connection
- users have direct access to the de-facto anonymised microdata
- combination with remote execution: RDC runs the final analyses on the formally anonymised microdata
- RDC checks the output and send the anonymised results to the user

# OFF-SITE: Scientific Use Files

- de facto anonymised microdata
- standardised off-site microdata
- higher anonymisation than microdata of guest researcher workplaces
- user obtains microdata on CD to access it only in the research institution
- Output is not to be checked by RDC
- available only for German research institutions

# OFF-SITE: Public Use Files

- absolutely anonymised microdata
- user obtains microdata on CD
- variables with a high degree of subject-related detail are aggregated
- detailed regional analysis cannot be made
- all users can work with public use files

# OFF-SITE: Campus Files

- absolutely anonymised microdata
- strong reduction in information
- specified files for academic lectures at universities
- no detailed analyses, usable:
  - to acquire methodological knowledge
  - to examine questions of social science or economics
- free download:  
<http://www.forschungsdatenzentrum.de/campus-file.asp>

# Future OFF-SITE: Remote Access

- combination of remote execution and guest researcher workplace
- microdata remains on the server in the statistical office
- safe online access from the researcher desk to the data server



# Thank you for your attention 😊

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